

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 193531

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: GORKY INSTITUTE/UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE

REF: MOSCOW 11853

1. WE HAVE NOTED WITH INTEREST THE DISCUSSION REPORTLD IN REFTTEL IN WHICH THE GORKY INSTITUTE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH A "MAJOR UNIVERSITY" IN THE U.S., BUT WITHOUT FLESHING OUT ITS PROPOSAL WITH SPECIFIC INDICATIONS OF WHAT IT HAS IN MIND OR HOPES TO ACHIEVE THROUGH SUCH A PROGRAM.

2. WE SUGGEST EMBASSY, AT THE NEXT AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY, ASK US, AKOV FOR A CLEARER EXPLICATION OF WHAT SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD ENTAIL. THE EMBASSY SHOULD TAKE CARE NOT TO COMMIT US TO OFFICIAL SPONSORSHIP OF SUCH AN EXCHANGE.

3. FYI, WE DISCUSSED USHAKOV'S SUGGESTION WITH MATUSZEWSKI

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PAGE 02 STATE 193531

OF IREX. MATUSZEWSKI POINTED OUT THAT FIVE OF THE SIX

MEMBERS IN THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE RECENT IREX-SPONSORED LITERATURE SEMINAR AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY WERE FROM THE GORKY INSTITUTE, AND HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THEY WERE READY SO SOON TO TALK AGAIN OF FURTHER EXCHANGES.

MATUSZEWSKI DID, HOWEVER, EXPRESS SOME MILD INTEREST IN ASSISTING SUCH INSTITUTE/UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE, PROVIDED THAT THE INSTITUTE IS ABLE TO GIVE A CLEAR DELINEATION OF WHAT IT SEES AS THE PROGRAM'S PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE. MATUSZEWSKI ALSO OFFERED THE OPINION THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT TO SET UP SUCH A PROGRAM, MENTIONING THAT HARVARD AND INDIANA HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SUCH AN EXCHANGE.

4. ALSO FYI, CU/EE WOULD BE WILLING TO FUND UNDER THE IV PROGRAM AN INITIAL VISIT TO THE U.S. BY A SMALL DELEGATION FROM THE INSTITUTE--NO MORE THAN THREE PEOPLE FOR THREE WEEKS--TO CONSULT WITH INTERESTED UNIVERSITIES. AGAIN, WE WOULD NOT WANT TO DO SO ON THE BASIS OF VAGUELY-EXPRESSED INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE INSTITUTE, BUT IF WE WERE PROVIDED SOME EVIDENCE OF PROSPECTS FOR MUTUAL ADVANTAGE IN SUCH AN EXCHANGE. END FYI.

5. WE WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO EMBASSY VIEWS AND FURTHER REPORTING ON THIS QUESTION.

6. WE BELIEVE THAT HENRY NASH SMITH IS STILL AVAILABLE AS A LECTURER NOMINEE TO GORKY INSTITUTE, BUT WE HESITATE TO CONTACT HIM AGAIN UNTIL WE ARE MORE CERTAIN WHEN GORKY INSTITUTE COULD ACCEPT HIM. WOULD THE EMBASSY BE WILLING TO HAVE HIM TRAVEL TO MOSCOW ON AN AMSPEC GRANT FOR A TWO WEEK VISIT, AS WE ORIGINALLY PROPOSED IN 1975, BEFORE THE ACADEMY-CIES EXCHANGE PROGRAM AGREEMENT IS COMPLETED? IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO HAVE HIM AT GORKY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE INSTITUTE'S INTEREST IN AN AMERICAN LECTURER IN LITERATURE STAYS ALIVE. PLEASE ADVISE. HABIB

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